



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

No:WM3/36/2025-LSGD

Local Self Government(WM)Department

Thiruvananthapuram,

Dated:10-02-2025

CIRCULAR

Sub: Local Self Government Department -Regulation of the banned SUP(Single Use Plastic) items- Instructions to the Enforcement Squad- reg

Ref: 1) GO (Rt) No.2566/2022/LSGD Date, 22/10/2022

2) GO (Rt) No.673/2023/LSGD Date, 21/03/2023

3) Interim Order dated 10-12-2024 of the Hon. High Court in WP(C)16253/2023 filed by Sri. Sudhakaran K.V

The Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change has banned several items of Single Use Plastic in India under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 considering the grave impact of plastic waste upon the environment. Since 2019, the Environment Department has further expanded this list of banned items vide Section 5 directions under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. Vide these orders, namely G.O(Ms) No. 6/2019/Envvt dated 27.11.2019 and G.O(Ms) 7/2019/ Envvt dated 17.12.2019, the State Government Environment Department has laid down steps to be

taken for enforcing the ban in the State.

As per the Government Order cited 1st, guidelines were issued for the constitution of Enforcement Squads to detect the violations of laws in respect of the Waste Management Rules. Subsequently, as per the Government Order cited 2nd, guidelines for the functioning of the Enforcement Squad were issued.

G.O(Ms) No. 6/2019/Envvt dated 27.11.2019 also lays down that the Local Self-Government Secretaries may exercise powers for enforcement of the ban in accordance with Section 19 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986. In accordance with this and powers vested in the Local Self-Governments under the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994 and the Kerala Panchayath Raj Act, 1994 and subsequent Government orders, the local self-government officials and the District Enforcement Squads have been taking action against Single Use Plastic.

Meanwhile one Sri. Sudhakaran K.V filed WP(C)16253/2023 before the Hon'ble High Court, seeking a direction to implement the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and to take stringent action against those manufacturers and producers who do not have the required registration as contemplated under Rule 13 of Plastic Waste Management Rules,2016. As per the order cited 3rd, Hon'ble High Court directed that the Local Self Government Departments shall comply with the suggestions put forth by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board in it's affidavit and issue necessary directions to the Enforcement Squads established under the Government Order dated 21st March 2023. The suggestions put forth in the Affidavit of the Pollution Control Board are with regard to the regulation of the banned SUP items including the plastic-coated SUP items and compostable commodities by the stakeholders.

Government have examined the matter in detail and the following instructions are issued for strict compliance.

a) Local Self Government Institutions(LSGIs) shall assist Kerala State Pollution Control Board(KSPCB) in identification of manufacturers and suppliers of banned SUP items.

b) Local Self Government Institutions(LSGIs) shall independently or jointly with PCB conduct exhaustive inspection drives at regular intervals in their areas to identify manufacturers and suppliers of banned SUP items including the plastic-coated SUP items and compostable commodities.

c) The Enforcement Squads shall conduct District-wise squad work for identification of major commercial establishments (Malls/ Market place/Shopping Centres/Cinema Houses/Tourist Locations/Schools/Colleges/Office Complexes/Hospitals and other institutions) and Stockists/Retailers/Sellers/Importers and other similar entities which are dealing in bulk in the aforementioned single use plastic items and compostable/biodegradable commodities not certified by the Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB).

d) The Enforcement Squad shall conduct inspections at Producer, Manufacturer, Importer, Brand owner (PIMBO), engaged in plastic packaging including compostable carry bags and sheets to ensure that units are registered on the Centralised EPR Portal.

e) The Enforcement Squad shall conduct regular inspection of entities to ensure that only entities having authorized certificates from CPCB are involved in the selling of compostable plastics.

f) The Board shall conduct regular interactive sessions, including convening

meetings and organizing workshops with stakeholders (PIMBOs, PWPs- Plastic Waste Processors, Industry Associations, etc..) in the matter

ANUPAMA T V
SPECIAL SECRETARY

Forwarded / By order,

Section Officer.

To:

The Secretary, Environment Department

The Principal Director, Local Self Government Department

All District Collectors

The Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission

The Member Secretary, Kerala State pollution Control Board

All Joint Directors, LSGD (through the Principal Director, LSGD)

All Secretaries of LSGIs (through the Principal Director, LSGD)

The Executive Director, Information Kerala Mission

Director, I&PRD (Web & New Media)

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